

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1 – 17 and 23 – 25 are pending in this Office action.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Howard, Reg. No. 56,377, on January 14, 2009.

#### **In the Specification:**

Please amend paragraph [0053] of the specification as follows:

Elements of the present invention may also be provided as a machine- readable medium for storing the machine-executable instructions. The machine- readable medium may include ~~, but is not limited to,~~ flash memory, optical disks, CD-ROMs, DVD ROMs, RAMs, EPROMs, EEPROMs, magnetic or optical cards, ~~propagation media or other type of machine-readable media suitable for storing electronic instructions.~~ For example, the present invention may be downloaded as a computer program which may be transferred from a remote computer (e.g., a server) to a requesting computer (e.g., a client) ~~by way of data embodied in a carrier wave or other propagation medium via a communication link (e.g., a modem or network connection).~~

***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on January 9, 2009 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

***Reasons For Allowance***

Claims 1 – 17 and 23 – 25 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest the system or method as recited in independent claims 1, 11, 15, and 23.

The system and method of the independent claims require a data object to store a hierarchical representation of configuration data associated with a plurality of server nodes, which are organized as instances. A property sheet is positioned at one of the nodes of the data object to pair custom and default configuration data for updating configurations within the data object, which is determined by a configuration manager on at least one of the server nodes. The configuration manager determines which server parameters are to be updated in response to updated configurations.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion/Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEXANDRIA Y. BROMELL whose telephone number is (571)270-3034. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alexandria Y Bromell/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2167  
January 14, 2009

/Shahid Al Alam/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162